Home for the holidays

Pop sensation Carly Rae Jepsen is returning to Mission for a free concert PAGE 5

CHRISTINE SINCLAIR GETS HER DUE

CANADIAN SOCCER CAPTAIN AND OLYMPIC MEDALLIST NAMED ATHLETE OF THE YEAR PAGE 32

VANCOUVER metro®

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HE'S PROMISING MORE THAN A LUMP OF COAL

Abbotsford police have sent to gangsters and repeat criminal offenders a holiday card featuring Santa holding a machine gun, with the question: "Which list will you be on next year? Will it be naughty or nice?" Story, page 6. CONTRIBUTED

Watts questions pricey SkyTrain line to UBC

Transit planning. Surrey mayor wary of $2.8B price tag for proposed underground Broadway route

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts says Vancouver's "very ambitious" aspiration to see a SkyTrain line built along the Broadway corridor all the way to UBC may be too rich for Surrey taxpayers' blood.

Watts and the other Metro Vancouver mayors are pushing the province to approve new transit-funding mechanisms, such as road pricing, to pay for major infrastructure projects but have been told they first need a unified set of priorities.

Watts said Monday a roughly $2-billion option to build a SkyTrain line to Arbutus Street connecting to UBC via rapid buses would be "more palatable" than a $2.8-billion underground line all the way.

"I think, personally, the sheer expense of it is a challenge," she said, "and there has to be consultation with the rest of the region if there is an expectation that there's SkyTrain and tunnelling all the way to UBC, because part of the TransLink piece is that everybody in the region contributes to infrastructure. So that's where it would be a challenge for us, with a price tag that high, if Surrey didn't get a say."

She suggested it might help if Vancouver city planners, who favour an uninterrupted rapid-transit line all the way to UBC, made a presentation to the TransLink mayors' council explaining their rational.

Vancouver Coun. Geoff Meggs, who agrees with the city's planning staff, said 50 per cent of Broadway corridor transit users are destined for the university, and those numbers are only expected to rise as the university expands.

"There's nothing in that option for people going to UBC," he said of the Arbutus interchange idea. "All that happens to a UBC commuter under that scenario is they change to the bus further west.

"Their service time might be slightly better, so the UBC folks, students and the administration are saying, 'Give us a single trip the whole way.' They don't want that transfer."

He said Watts is right to be asking tough questions and deserves answers, and suggested Mayor Gregor Robertson would be willing to make a presentation about the issue to the mayors' council.

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NEWS

Budget. Financial woes put media centre W2 in limbo

Budget problems have left the W2 Community Media Arts Society in the Downtown Eastside's Woodwards building in limbo as it renegotiates its lease with the city.

The city acts as W2's landlord by lending it three floors of community space, which hosts community radio and TV stations, among other creative pursuits.

Non-profit W2 made money by renting out the space and from its now-defunct café, but not enough to keep its finances in check.

"Ultimately, the society's budget problem comes from being better at helping others than at helping ourselves, and we need to take some (achievable) steps to change that," said Dethe Elza, chair of W2's board.

Two full-time staff and some contractors were laid off or given notice of layoffs, Elza said.

W2 isn't shutting down, but restructuring so it's more sustainable, he said. W2 wasn't able to meet its obligations to the city, which has worked with the organization on these concerns for the past year, Mayor Gregor Robertson said in a statement.

"City council remains supportive of W2's overall vision and the city is committed to working with the W2 Board to facilitate a renewed business plan," Robertson said.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Quote

"City council remains supportive of W2's overall vision."

Mayor Gregor Robertson, in a statement.

A rendering of the proposed South Surrey casino. COURTESY GATEWAY CASINOS & ENTERTAINMENT LTD.

Public hearing set for Surrey casino

Chips are down.
The proposed $100M project has many supporters, detractors as final decision yet to be made by council

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

It's time to place your bets on the future of a proposed South Surrey casino.

Opponents and supporters of the $100-million Gateway Casinos & Entertainment project appear neck-and-neck as the City of Surrey decides whether to green-light the development that will generate approximately $3.1 million in additional gaming revenue for the city each year.

A city staff report presented to a packed council Monday said the proposal — which includes a hotel, restaurants, lounges and a conference centre — meets the city's gaming policy, the RCMP has no concerns with the casino and the British Columbia Lottery Corporation approves of the casino in principle.

But it stopped short of recommending the casino, instead suggesting council hold a public hearing before a final decision is made. The councillors unanimously voted Monday to hear from the public.

The city was flooded with 5,964 petitions, letters, phone calls and emails regarding the casino as of Dec. 5, according to the report.

About 65 per cent of correspondents (3,903) opposed the casino while 35 per cent (2,061) were in support. Eighty-three per cent of opponents are Surrey residents or business owners, compared to 60 per cent of supporters.

But Gateway has its own numbers from surveys, email campaigns and petitions. More than 3,000 Surrey residents and 4,900 non-residents support the project, spokeswoman Tanya Gabara said Monday.

"There is significant, undeniable public support for the South Surrey Entertainment Complex proposal," Gabara said in a statement.

Terry McNeice of the South Surrey Ratepayer's Association, a group that meets weekly and strongly opposes the casino, finds Gateway's number of supporters hard to believe. He criticized Gateway's questionnaire because it didn't require an address.

"Theoretically you could fill it out as many times as you want," McNeice said.

Regardless, he expects hundreds of people on both sides of the issue to duke it out at the public hearing. And his side, which includes 10 church groups, won't stop fighting against the casino.

The public hearing is set for Jan. 14, 2013.

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Paws-on approach: Pooch power pacifies stressed-out SFU students

The woof stuff. Organizer of pilot doggie therapy session on campus hopes to expand concept

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Psychology students Alexis Scigliano, left, and Ali Zokal pet Maya on Monday during a doggie-therapy break at Simon Fraser University's International Services for Students office in Burnaby. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Some SFU students feeling the pressure and stress of term papers and final exams got a much-needed distraction courtesy of a four-legged friend.

Martin Mroz with Simon Fraser University's health and counselling department brought his purebred Belgian shepherd Maya to the Burnaby campus last Thursday and again on Monday to give students a break from the books and help them destress.

"Petting animals or just being with animals connects people to a relationship that's really focused on the moment. It can help them forget their worries," he said. "One student even said, 'I feel my GPA rising just as I sit here and pat her.'"

When Metro stopped by to check the pilot doggie-therapy session on Monday, at least 10 students were taking turns petting the two-and-a-half-year-old pooch and giving her treats.

The idea has been on Mroz's radar for a while after seeing news of different schools with puppy rooms or bringing dogs onto campus. Dalhousie University ran a puppy room earlier this month, which drew more than 500 students in just one day.

Jorge Vasquez said it was great to just spend a few minutes with the cuddly canine and forget about economics for a while.

Meanwhile, psychology student Ali Zokal likes the idea of utilizing holistic methods to combat stress.

"I think some people at this time during exams deal with using medications to help with the effects of being up for long hours," she said. "And the idea of bringing something in that is not damaging to you is an awesome one."

Mroz said he would love to do this concept in a more structured way, with more sessions and more dogs.

"It would be great for the students to have an opportunity to bring theirs in to do this, or there might be an organization that we might be able to work with," he added.

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No ifs, buts or maybes: Mission's Carly Rae Jepsen coming home for free concert

Grammy-nominated singer. Tickets to see pop star perform on Dec. 17 will be handed out this evening

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Mission songstress Carly Rae Jepsen will be home for the holidays.

The Call Me Maybe singer, who was nominated for two Grammy Awards last week, is coming back to her hometown for a free Dec. 17 concert at the Clarke Theatre.

American retail chain Target is bringing the singer-songwriter back for the complimentary concert as part of the final leg of the company's cross-country road trip.

"I'm so grateful to be back home in Mission where I've received such strong support from Day 1," Jepsen said in a release. "Target is known for supporting their local communities and I'm thrilled to be a part of their tour for their stop in Mission so I can help to do the same."

Five hundred tickets will be handed out (one per person standing in the line) starting tonight at 6 p.m. at the Mission Leisure Centre.

Quoted

"I'm so grateful to be back home in Mission where I've received such strong support from Day 1."

Pop star Carly Rae Jepsen in a release

The Target Road Trip launched in Halifax late last month and has made stops in Quebec City and Toronto.

Jepsen's rise to fame came when her single hit it big in the American pop scene earlier this year. Call Me Maybe has sold more than 10 million singles worldwide and climbed to No. 1 in more than 37 countries.

Target plans to open 124 stores across Canada starting in March and April 2013.

Follow Phylicia Torrevillas on Twitter @ptorrevillas

Recording artist Carly Rae Jepsen performs on Aug. 25 in New York City. Jepsen is returning to her hometown of Mission for a free Dec. 17 concert.

MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES FOR USTA

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No drastic changes. B.C.'s clean-vehicle incentive program fizzles

A $7.5-million provincial clean-vehicle incentive program isn't sparking a change as quickly as the government hoped.

The program, headed by the B.C. Ministry of Environment and LiveSmart B.C., which partnered with the New Car Dealers Association of B.C. in December 2011, has only dispersed $1.44 million of its budget, leaving more than $5 million to be dispersed in the remaining three months of the program.

The Clean Energy Vehicle (CEV) incentives offer rebates of $5,000 to those purchasing qualifying battery electric, fuel-cell, plug-in hybrid electric or compressed-natural-gas vehicles at any of 199 participating car dealers across B.C.

Blair Qualey, president of the New Car Dealers Association of B.C., said that around 300 electric cars were sold in the province last year but emphasized that change takes time.

He blames low sales on issues with getting inventory from electric-car suppliers, people's fear of the unknown and a lack of electric-car charging stations in the province.

He said he told the government they would need longer than a year for the CEV incentives to catch on but they only gave the program one year.

"Governments work in these fiscal numbers," said Qualey.

"But we're hopeful that they're going to roll the program over on April first."

He thinks more charging stations in the province could increase sales, as many people fear electric cars will get them stranded in the middle of nowhere.

"Many people have experienced what they call 'range anxiety' — running out of power in their battery."

Last week it was announced that 145 electric car-charging stations have been approved for installation throughout B.C., bringing the number up to 570 charging stations in the province by March.

Of the newly approved stations, there will be six at Simon Fraser University, 10 at the University of British Columbia and six at BCIT.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Trouble. Aggressive crowd surrounds Mounties in Whistler

A volatile crowd surrounded Whistler Mounties late Saturday night and one person tried to steal an officer's gun as they tried to arrest a young man for allegedly damaging a ski rack with skis in it.

Sgt. Rob Knapton said the fracas began when about 50 patrons became aggressive toward staff at a bar that was at capacity because some people were stuck in line outside.

When police showed up the crowd started to disperse, but officers allege they saw a 23-year-old man from Pemberton damaging a ski rack.

"When the suspect was arrested for mischief he chose to resist arrest," Knapton said in a release.

The 23-year-old suspect was arrested and is facing charges of mischief, resisting arrest and causing a disturbance.

RCMP called the incident "disappointing."

KATE WEBB/METRO

Witnesses sought

Van knocks cop off his motorcycle

Investigators are looking for witnesses who saw a van knock an on-duty Vancouver police officer off his motorcycle Monday morning.

The officer was hit from behind after turning right onto Clark Drive from East 6th Avenue around 9:30 a.m. He was released from hospital later.

Anyone who saw the crash and has not yet talked to police is asked to call the Vancouver Police Collision Investigation Unit at (604) 717-3012. KATE WEBB/METRO

Assisted-living facility

Man, 91, dies after being left alone in care home

The BC Coroner's Service has joined the investigations into the case of a 91-year-old man who died after being left alone for several days in his room in an assisted-living facility in Summerland, B.C.

Alfredo Bonaldi died Dec. 7 after being taken to hospital after a family member went to the Summerland Seniors Village on Nov. 25 and discovered the elderly man in his bed suffering. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Abbotsford police sent a holiday card featuring Santa holding a machine gun and the phrase "Which list will you be on next year? Will it be naughty or nice?" CONTRIBUTED

Ho-ho-hoping to change some lives

Gangster Claus. Abbotsford police use provocative card to help repeat offenders get on the nice list

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The Abbotsford police hope a naughty holiday card will inspire gangsters to be nice.

Police sent a holiday card featuring Chief Const. Bob Rich dressed as a machine-gun-toting Santa in tactical gear to dozens of prolific offenders and people involved with drugs and gangs on Friday.

The card's caption says "Which list will you be on next year?" Will it be naughty or nice?" On the inside, it provides a phone number to call for help making better choices.

It's a little provocative, but that's what could make people open the card and realize the police are there to help them choose a different path in 2013, Const. Ian MacDonald said.

"If it was just a snowscape from the APD with just the additional messaging, we don't think it would get peoples' attention in the first place," MacDonald said.

Many offenders the card was sent to have likely seen officers in Emergency Response Team gear anyway, especially if they're involved in drugs, he said. The card is in the mail to those who have 10 or more criminal convictions, have been the subject of five or more police investigations in the past six months, are at a set address to obey court conditions or are involved in gangs or drugs.

The same card was also sent to the regular mailing list, with the only difference being that the help-line message inside is omitted, MacDonald added.

"We sincerely hope that people will call," he said. "For the cost of printing and a postage stamp, we certainly think it's worth a try."

Should people call the line, they'll have the chance to leave a message and set a time to speak to police about a new path.

"You are always only one choice away from changing your life," the card reads.

Protesters plan to take beef with Bill C-45 to UN

People march from the Native Education College to the Vancouver Art Gallery Monday in protest of Bill C-45. The bill makes changes to the Indian Act. METRO

Two organizers of a protest against the federal government's Bill C-45 announced Monday that they plan to appeal to the United Nations to stop what they claim is the "criminal treatment of First Nations."

The national day of action being called "Idle No More" brought out a large group who marched from Native Education College on Main Street to the Vancouver Art Gallery, chanting "Hey. Ho. Harper's gotta go."

Monday's march was one of many protests that took place across the country; all were against the omnibus bill, which is more than 400 pages long and, among other things, alters the Indian Act to affect leasing of reserve lands and how decisions about band territories are made.

"From here, we'd like to become more of an organization," said Danita Nez, who organized Monday's event along with fellow Native Education College student Steven Kakimoosit.

She and Kakimoosit organized the march in only five days.

Now they have their eye on the UN.

"In regards to the United Nations, we would like to bring a case forward against the government in regards to its criminal treatment to the First Nations," said Kakimoosit.

"We're going to be meeting on Jan. 17 to set up the name and leadership as well as the charter of the organization."

Protests were organized Monday surrounding the annual Human Rights Day, marked by the UN's adoption of a Universal Declaration of Human Rights 64 years ago.

CARA MCKENNA/METRO

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B.C. town grieves. Highway crash claims two Clearwater teachers

School officials and police in the Interior town of Clearwater say the deaths of a man and his pregnant wife — both teachers — are a tragedy for the families of the victims, the school district and the community of just 5,000.

Skye Buck and his wife Courtney, who were both 30, were killed Sunday when their car skidded off an icy patch of Highway 5 and plunged 30 metres down an embankment into the North Thompson River, north of Kamloops.

Kamloops-Thompson School District Superintendent Terry Sullivan said the couple will be sorely missed.

Community affected

"We are struggling now to extend the depths of our sympathy for the family (and) for the community."

Kamloops-Thompson School District superintendent Terry Sullivan

"It's a terrible tragedy," he said.

A friend of the couple, Lenka Moravcova, said Skye Buck had told her recently his wife was seven months pregnant.

"He said that he's expecting a little one shortly after Christmas in the New Year (and) we were joking that he should volunteer for the Davis Cup if they happen to have (the baby) in Vancouver, and he said it will be very difficult because they will have a newborn," she said.

Skye Buck was a basketball player who played professionally in Europe before becoming a math teacher at Clearwater Secondary.

Courtney was a Grade 1 teacher at Raft River elementary school in the town.

RCMP Const. Leslie Smith said the deaths have shocked the community.

"They were prominent, well known throughout the whole Clearwater community ... and the entire community of Clearwater is grieving." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing something? Cops find heaps of stolen iPods, cameras, jewelry, purses

More than 100 charges have been laid in total against four people after police on southern Vancouver Island uncovered a treasure trove of stolen property.

A regional police crime unit focused on two men that police say are prolific offenders and obtained search warrants for their homes.

Officers found laptops, iPods, GPS devices, cameras, jewelry, wallets, purses, personal documents and many other stolen items from towns all over southern Vancouver Island.

Twenty-six-year-old Derek Fast faces the most charges at 46 counts, although his girlfriend, 27-year-old Tannya Barns, isn't far behind at 28 charges.

The second man charged is Robert Iverson, who is accused of 28 counts of theft, possession of stolen property and firearms-related offences, while his girlfriend, Jennifer Herman, faces eight charges, including breach of probation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Car break-ins

- The crime unit believes many of the items were taken during vehicle break-ins.

Held for psych assesment

Accused in brutal attack on 3 women smiles in court

An Alberta man accused of brutally attacking three women in downtown Vancouver Friday — leaving two near death — has been ordered held for a psychiatric assessment.

Thirty-five-year-old Nicholas Osuteye is charged with three counts of attempted murder, one for each woman who was beaten — including an 87-year-old.

Two of the women who were assaulted have injuries so serious they may not survive.

Osuteye was picked up not far from the site of the third attack on Friday, wearing only his underwear.

In a rather bizarre court appearance Monday, Osuteye seemed to smile occasionally, appearing bemused at times.

He's being held for a 30-day psychiatric assessment, and a bail hearing has been scheduled for Jan. 9. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A group of protesters gathers outside the Northern Gateway hearings in Prince Rupert on Monday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Oil and birds are not a good combination'

Northern Gateway hearings. Company expert agrees chronic or mystery spills are a 'problem'

Expectations

"The project is going to fully comply with all regulation and laws. That is our firm expectation."

John Carruthers, president of Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines

Chronic, ship-source discharges of oily effluent pose a larger problem than large-scale catastrophic oil spills, lawyers for Nature Canada told the panel weighing the Northern Gateway pipeline.

Chris Tollefson, lawyer for the non-profit conservation group, questioned a panel of company experts Monday — the opening day of the hearings in Prince Rupert, B.C. — about the company's assessment of the project's impacts on marine birds.

Tollefson said the area that would be traversed by 220 oil tankers annually is home to hundreds of at-risk species, including the endangered marbled murrelet, great blue heron, horned grebe and black-footed albatross.

"The literature says that the cumulative effects of chronic oiling on marine birds is greater than the impact of catastrophic oil spills. Would you agree that that's what the literature says?" Tollefson asked Jeff Green, who was responsible for the project's environmental assessment for Calgary-based Enbridge.

Such chronic, or "mystery" spills, can be as large as tanker spills, Green agreed, but they occur in different regions and in smaller volumes, and therefore behave differently.

The growing awareness of the problem has resulted in a call for increased surveillance and increased enforcement of laws that prevent ship-source discharges, he said.

"So, yes, it is a problem. There's absolutely no question it's a problem: oil and birds are not a good combination," Green said.

But recreational boats, fishing vessels, urban runoff and sewage are sources of mystery oil, Green said, as well as natural seepage from offshore oil deposits in the Pacific.

Authorized discharges are legally limited to an amount that does not have a significant impact on wildlife. Discharges above that amount are illegal under the Canada Shipping Act, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

10 B.C. First Nations sign deal that puts economic development ahead of treaties

Ten British Columbia First Nations on Monday signed an extension to an agreement with the provincial government that puts the pursuit of economic development ahead of land-claims treaties.

The Nanwakolas group of First Nations, from northern Vancouver Island and B.C.'s mid-coast, said it views the renewed strategic engagement agreement — first signed in 2009 — as the blueprint for their future.

The agreement covers about 4.5 million hectares on northeastern Vancouver Island and the mainland coast, of which much of that area is currently part of ongoing but unresolved treaty talks.

Nanwakolas Council Society spokesman Dallas Smith, who attended a signing ceremony at the B.C. legislature, said the renewal agreement ensures smoother and faster permitting and regulatory approvals between government, First Nations and industry.

"This is talking about the future of resource development within our territories," Smith said. "The turnaround time on referrals has been cut in half for a lot of the forest developments in the area."

Smith said the Nanwakolas believe economic development on their territories will eventually spur treaty settlements, but currently the First Nations are interested in showing their people economic results rather than huge treaty-negotiation legal bills.

"You've seen an economy grow within the treaty process, and there's a lot of people comfortable with the lack of results in it," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Monkey see, monkey do: Toronto lawyer Yasmin Nakhuda brushes her teeth with monkey Darwin in an undated home video. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Monkey mom just wants to see her baby

Unnatural selection?
'Ikea monkey' owner says it was 'fatal attraction' with Darwin, but sanctuary staff refuse her request for visitation

It was "fatal attraction" that turned Darwin — the now-famed Ikea monkey — from a guest in her home to a monkey she ate, slept and showered with, according to Yasmin Nakhuda.

"I tried to return him and he wouldn't leave me," said a visibly stressed Nakhuda, a Toronto real-estate lawyer, outside her home Monday night.

Nakhuda was the owner of Darwin, who was found in a faux shearling coat Sunday, trying to get into a Toronto Ikea.

Toronto Animal Services took custody of Darwin Sunday, and the seven-month-old rhesus macaque has since been transferred to Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, roughly 100 kilometres north of Toronto.

Earlier Monday, Nakhuda called the Sunderland sanctuary, pleading to see her pet monkey. Staff, however, refused to allow the visit and advised the woman that Darwin needed time to settle into his new home.

"It was a babysitting experience that turned out into a fatal attraction and put me where I am," said Nakhuda.

Nakhuda wouldn't say where she tried to return the seven-month-old Darwin to, or if she was even aware the pampered primate was illegal in the city.

Quoted

"It's not like raising any other animals, or dog or cat. You need to experience it. He has feelings like human beings."
Yasmin Nakhuda

Inside her home, the cries of another animal could be heard, which Nakhuda said was a Scarlet Macaw — a large parrot.

"It's totally legal, OK? It's not that I have illegal pets," said Nakhuda.

Videos on YouTube show Nakhuda and Darwin playing in an office, dressed up for Halloween, and even brushing their teeth together.

In a video of Darwin uploaded in October, Nakhuda describes how attached to the monkey she is.

"He is more than a handful: needs to be baby bottle fed night time and needs at least 3 diaper change a day," Nakhuda wrote in the comments.

"He has to be with me all the time which means he goes with me to the office, sleeps with me, eats with me, showers with me, goes shopping with me ... it is more than a human baby so yes, not everyone can handle a baby monkey. He is now 6 months old only and is expected to be around 4 feet tall."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Detained in Guatemala. McAfee wishes for return to 'normal life' in U.S.

Software-company founder John McAfee said Sunday he wants to return to the United States and "settle down to whatever normal life" he can.

In a live-stream Internet broadcast from the Guatemalan detention centre where he is fighting a government order that he be returned to Belize, the 67-year-old said "I simply would like to live comfortably day by day, fish, swim, enjoy my declining years."

Police in neighbouring Belize want to question McAfee about the fatal shooting of a U.S. expatriate who lived near his home on a Belizean island in November.

The creator of the McAfee antivirus program again denied involvement in the killing during the Sunday Internet video hookup, during which he answered what he said were reporters' questions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John McAfee
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marijuana

Pot now legal for recreational use in Colorado

Marijuana for recreational use became legal in Colorado on Monday when the governor took the procedural step of declaring the voter-approved change part of the state constitution.

Colorado became the second U.S. state after Washington to allow pot use without a doctor's recommendation. Both states prohibit public use of the drug, and commercial sales in Colorado and Washington won't be permitted until after regulations are written next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Auction

Album signed by Lennon for his killer on sale for $650k

A copy of the album Double Fantasy signed by John Lennon for the man who would murder him hours later has gone on sale for $650,000 U.S.

Included with the record are police reports, forensically-enhanced fingerprints of killer Mark David Chapman and letters from the district attorney, Moments in Time president Gary Zimet said.

Lennon had autographed the front of the dust jacket five hours before Chapman shot and killed him on Dec. 8, 1980 in New York City.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Undercover research.
Animal cruelty rooted out at Manitoba hog farm

BERNICE PONTANILLA
Metro in Winnipeg

An animal-welfare advocacy group said a months-long undercover investigation at a Manitoba hog farm demonstrates a need for swift action on the part of retailers, industry and government.

"The extreme cruelty documented at this factory farm would horrify most Canadians but is considered standard and acceptable within the pork industry," said Twyla Francois, director of investigations for Mercy For Animals (MFA) Canada, at a press conference in Winnipeg on Monday.

"These are the standards that exist right across Canada."

The footage was captured by an undercover investigator who spent 10 weeks from July to September working at hog farm Interlake Weanlings, owned and operated by Puratone in Arborg, Man.

In it, sows are seen in pens so small that they cannot turn around, called gestation crates. The video also showed sows with sores and eye infections, as well as the tails and testicles of piglets being sliced off without painkillers.

Francois said this facility was randomly selected, as the investigator sent many job applications and it was the first to hire him.

The MFA is calling on grocery retailers Sobeys, Superstore and Walmart to stop purchasing from companies that employ such practices.

Gestation crates have been banned by the EU, Australia, New Zealand and nine U.S. states.

Maple Leaf Foods, which is in the process of purchasing Puratone, has committed to phasing out gestation crates by 2017.

Official response

A statement from Ray Hildebrand, president and CEO of The Puratone Corporation:

- "We are disturbed by some of the images ... which do not reflect our animal welfare policy and principles.... All of our employees receive training to ensure that they adhere to these standards, and we have veterinarians on staff to enforce these requirements. We have launched an immediate investigation and corrective actions will be taken."

Twyla Francois of Mercy For Animals. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO IN WINNIPEG

Allegations of bias fly in robocall case

Election scandal.
Pollster Frank Graves grilled over donations to federal Liberals

The credibility of a key witness in a legal bid to overturn Conservative victories in six closely contested ridings came under fire Monday as hearings began into allegations of voter-suppression tactics during the last federal election.

Eight Canadians — supported by the left-leaning Council of Canadians — are challenging the results in those six ridings, alleging misleading or harassing phone calls kept some people from voting and may have affected the results.

Central to the Federal Court case by eight applicants is a report by the firm of pollster Frank Graves, which he says shows signs of a targeted voter-suppression campaign aimed at non-Conservative voters during the May 2011 election.

On Monday, Conservative party lawyer Arthur Hamilton grilled Graves, president of Ekos Research, over donations to the federal Liberals dating back to 2006, as well as inconsistencies in prior court affidavits submitted as part of the case.

Graves is unfit to be an expert witness in the case, Hamilton argued.

The Conservative party lawyer produced screenshots from the Elections Canada website showing three donations between 2006 and 2008. Graves said his office recorded the cheques as donations to the party.

Earlier in the day, Hamilton argued the case is frivolous, saying the eight applicants are really just stand-ins for the left-wing council.

"There are simply too many pieces of evidence which point to the fact that the Council of Canadians is the real applicant here," Hamilton told the court.

Hamilton is asking the court to dismiss each of the applications. The council has no bona-fide witnesses who could testify that they actually were dissuaded from casting a ballot because of the calls, he noted.

But Garry Neil of the Council of Canadians said the applicants need only show the calls were made, sullying the electoral process. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The applicants' lawyer, Steven Shrybman, during a recess of Federal Court on Monday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elections Canada investigation

The case is parallel to — and unsupported by — an ongoing Elections Canada investigation into the fraudulent robocalls, stemming from complaints that have surfaced in 56 ridings across the country.

- **Tory denial.** While the misleading phone calls appeared to target non-Conservative voters, the Conservative party insists it had no involvement in any such scheme and says it is assisting the investigation.
- **Greasy culprit.** A shadowy operative known only as "Pierre Poutine" is believed to be behind the calls. However, Elections Canada has not yet been able to find that person.

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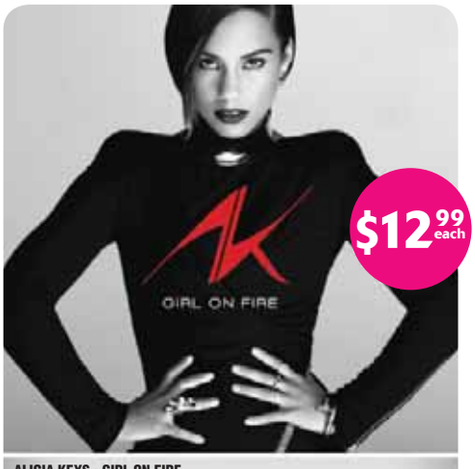

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Afghans seek justice on Human Rights Day

An Afghan protester speaks on a loudspeaker as others hold portraits of Afghans who were killed in the past three decades of war and violence, during a demonstration organized by the Social Association of Afghan Justice Seekers, in Kabul, Monday. Dozens of Afghans who have lost family members marched to mark International Human Rights Day, asking for justice for the deaths of their loved ones.

MUSADEQ SADEQ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt. Army joins police for security duties in lead-up to Dec. 15 referendum

The Egyptian military on Monday assumed joint responsibility with the police for security and protecting state institutions until the results of a Dec. 15 constitutional referendum are announced.

The army took up the task in line with a decree issued Sunday by President Mohammed Morsi. The Islamist leader on Monday also suspended a series of tax hikes announced the previous day on alcohol, cigarettes and other items.

The presidential edict orders the military and police to jointly maintain security in the run-up to Saturday's vote on the disputed charter, which was hurriedly approved last month by a panel dominated by the president's Islamist allies despite a boycott of the committee's liberal, secular and Christian members.

The decree also grants the military the right to arrest civilians, but presidential spokesman Yasser Ali said it was nowhere near a declaration of martial law.

"It is merely a measure to extend legal cover for the armed forces while they are used to maintain security," Ali told The Associated Press.

There were no signs of a beefed-up military presence outside the presidential palace, the site of fierce street clashes last week, or elsewhere in the capital on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Constitutional jitters

- Morsi's decision to lean on the military to safeguard the vote is widely seen as evidence of just how jittery the government is about the referendum on the draft constitution, which has been at the heart of days of duelling protests by the opposition and Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood backers.
- The two sides clashed in Cairo last week, leaving at least six people dead and hundreds wounded in the worst violence of the crisis.
- Both the opposition and Morsi's supporters have called for mass rallies on Tuesday.

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FTC inquires whether apps collected personal data from children

Software companies that make cellphone apps are being investigated to determine whether they have violated the privacy rights of children by quietly collecting personal information from phones and sharing it with advertisers and data brokers, the Federal Trade Commission said Monday.

Such apps can capture a child's physical location, phone numbers of their friends and more. The FTC, a U.S. government agency, described the marketplace for mobile applications as a digital danger zone with inadequate oversight.

By the numbers

400

Of the 400 apps designed for kids examined by the FTC, most failed to inform parents about the types of data the app could gather and who could access it, the report found.

In a report prepared by the FTC's own experts, it said the industry has grown rapidly but failed to ensure the privacy of young consumers is adequately protected.

Of the 400 apps designed for kids examined by the FTC, most failed to inform parents about the types of data the app could gather and who could access it, the report said.

Others contained advertising most parents would find objectionable and included links to Facebook, Twitter and other social media services where kids post information about themselves.

The report said some mobile apps can siphon data to "invisible and unknown" third parties that could be used to develop a detailed profile of a child without a parent's knowledge or consent.

The FTC also said it was investigating whether any of the software companies that produce apps engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices, which would be illegal.

In one case, an app that allows children to paint pictures and save them in an online photo gallery didn't indicate that it includes advertising. But investigators said the app ran an ad across the bottom of the screen for an online dating service that said, "See 1000+ Singles."

The FTC did not indicate which companies it was investigating or exactly how many of them.

The agency is considering major changes to a 1998 law, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, that would impose tougher online safeguards for children under 13. Technology companies have warned that the proposed changes were too aggressive and could discourage them from producing kid-friendly content on the Internet. Public interest groups have pushed hard for the changes, saying expanded use of mobile devices and methods for collecting personal data have outpaced rules put in place more than a decade ago.

The commissioners are expected to vote on the revisions to the law within weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Random House staff

Bondage bonuses. Publishing house had banner year, thanks to Fifty Shades of Grey

Sex sells, but it also gives back. Thousands of Random House employees in Canada and the United States will each receive a $5,000 bonus cheque on Thursday as a "thank you" for a lucrative publishing year.

The erotic bestseller Fifty Shades of Grey and its two sequels, published by Random House, have sold 60 million copies worldwide.

Other Random House titles have

Market Minute

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Strange bedfellows

Apple, Google bid jointly for Kodak patents

Apple and Google, bitter rivals in smartphone technology, have joined up to make a combined bid for a bundle of patents offered by photography pioneer Kodak, according to a published report. Bloomberg News reported that Apple Inc. and Google Inc. have abandoned competing bids for the portfolio to offer a combined $500 million US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Safety concerns

Ford to update 2013 Fusion, Escape software

Ford Canada will update software on 2013 Escape SUVs and Fusion cars to fix a coolant problem that can cause fires. Last month Ford recalled about 91,500 of the vehicles, including 9,850 in Canada, after complaints about overheating and fires. Only vehicles with 1.6-litre turbocharged engines are affected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wireless industry

Cell users want roaming fees capped at $50, survey finds

Almost 90 per cent of consumers want their wireless carriers to halt their data use abroad when they've spent a maximum of $50 on international data roaming fees, says a new study.

"Consumers understand dollar limits in terms of how much it's going to look like on my bill when I get back from vacation or travel," said Janet Lo, legal counsel for the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, which conducted the survey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

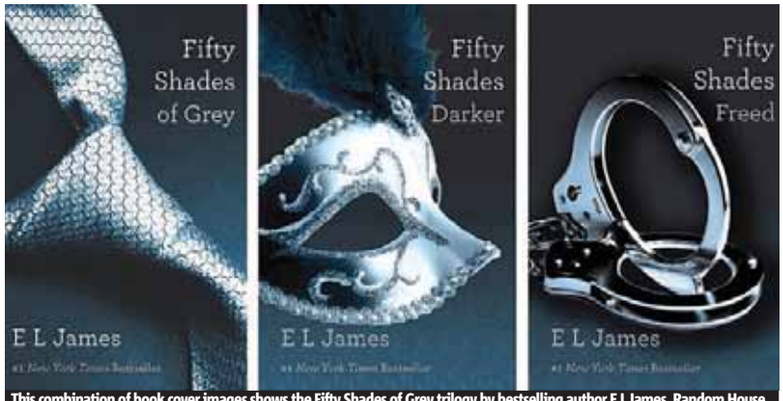
to get $5,000 cheques

also raked in profits this year, including Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn, Wild by Cheryl Strayed and The Racketeer by John Grisham.

"This is a one-time special thank you for a great 2012," Random House U.S. spokesman Stuart Applebaum told Torstar News Service.

"To my long recollection, this is the first time we have done something of this scope and magnitude."

A few thousand Random House employees in the U.S. and 170 in Canada will see their bonuses in this Thursday's paycheques, said Random House Canada spokeswoman Tracey Turriff. "Everyone from the CEO to the staff in the operating centres will each receive the same amount," said Applebaum.



This combination of book cover images shows the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy by bestselling author E L James. Random House, which publishes the books, had such a good year it's giving employees $5,000 year-end bonuses. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Fifty Shades is published in 31 languages but the bonuses are "a North American initiative," said Turriff. Employees who've worked for Random House for the full year will get $5,000, she said. Newer employees' bonuses will be pro-rated.

Random House, a division of media giant Bertelsmann, and publishing behemoth Penguin Books announced a worldwide merger in October.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"To my long recollection, this is the first time we have done something of this scope and magnitude." Random House U.S. spokesman Stuart Applebaum

Oilsands. Nexen takeover would have been hard sell under new rules: Minister

Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver is suggesting the $15.1-billion takeover of Nexen by a Chinese state-owned company would not have been OK'd under new investment rules.

Oliver's comments Monday came on the heels of strict limits being placed on how much foreign state-owned influence is acceptable, particularly in the oilsands.

The federal government approved foreign takeovers Friday of Calgary-based Nexen Inc. and Progress Energy Resources Corp., but also updated the rules around such deals.

After a speech to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Oliver said the Nexen takeover — under the new rules — "would have been difficult because it would had to have been an exceptional situation."

The minister added that while Ottawa didn't feel that the Nexen acquisition "was excessive," he noted that new rules are "now in place."

Oliver also said the rules won't hurt the oilsands, as there is a "huge amount of capital available globally and quite a bit available inside our country."

In the future, all state-owned enterprises seeking to buy large Canadian companies will face greater scrutiny about how they operate and how much control their home governments would have over how they do business.

On Friday, Prime Minister Stephen Harper ended months of speculation by approving the foreign takeovers of Nexen Inc. by China National Offshore Oil Co., or CNOOC, and Progress Energy Resources Corp. by Malaysia's Petronas.

Shares in some Canadian oilsands producers found themselves the target of sellers Monday since they can no longer realistically hope to be snapped up by foreign state-owned enterprises at fat share price premiums.

CNOOC launched a friendly $15.1-billion bid for Nexen and its Long Lake oilsands project in July, providing a series of guarantees to the Canadian government on job creation, head office location and corporate governance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Petronas deal

- Initially, Petronas' $6-billion bid for Progress Energy, which is developing natural-gas lands in northeastern B.C., was rejected by the federal government and the company later revised its proposal.

U.S. bank to pay $327M over laundering charges

Standard Chartered Bank has agreed to pay $327 million US to settle federal and New York charges it laundered money on behalf of four countries that were subject to U.S. economic sanctions from 2001 through 2007.

Federal authorities said the settlement announced Monday was part of a deferred prosecution agreement with the Justice Department and Manhattan district attorney. The deal covers currency transactions made at the British bank's New York branch for Iranian, Sudanese, Libyan and Burmese entities that were concealed from regulators. The London-based bank also has settled with the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control and the Federal Reserve.

"For years, Standard Chartered Bank deliberately violated U.S. laws governing transactions involving Sudan, Iran and other countries subject to U.S. sanctions," said Assistant U.S. Attorney General Lanny Breuer. "The United States expects a minimum standard of behaviour from all financial institutions that enjoy the benefits of the U.S. financial system."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE NICE FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND AVOID THESE NAUGHTY MISTAKES

SHE SAYS...
Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

The holidays tend to bring out the best in people, but occasionally (often) they also bring out the worst. Here are five common mistakes you'll probably make at some point this season, but maybe should try to avoid.

1. Do something inappropriate during the office holiday party.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that free booze + annoying co-workers (or even worse, a sexy co-worker) makes for a terrible combination. Plenty of you are going to get yourselves into trouble after a few too many eggnog-based bad-idea bevvies. But be sure to alternate between yuletide cocktails and water to avoid turning into a red-faced wreck and remember, what happens at the office party ends up on Facebook.

2. Attempt to shop for others and buy gifts for yourself, instead.

I get it; you're roaming the mall on a peppermint mocha high and suddenly you want to buy ALL THE THINGS. But you know who's going to be really mad about that decision? Future you. A $40 lipstick is going to seem pretty wasteful when you see your credit card bill in January.

3. Feel sad about spending the holidays alone.

There's something about this time of year that brings out the smugness in happily-in-love couples. And sure, it would be ideal if we all got to spend the holidays walking hand-in-hand with that special someone through a majestic snow-covered winter wonderland, but the reality is, that may not happen for you. So ignore your Facebook feed as it lights up like a Christmas tree with engagement ring photos and focus on yourself. Spend the money you saved on not buying a gift for a significant other on an enjoyable solo excursion and laugh at all those people suffering through overcooked turkey with the in-laws.

4. Make the 'seriously?' face after opening a terrible gift.

It's hard to feign excitement over a lacklustre gift. One year my grandparents gave me a biblical pamphlet and a pair of scissors. No, it wasn't a joke. I smiled graciously despite my secular leanings and an abundance of clippers back home. Because if the holidays are about making others happy, then pretending you really love a three-pack of gym socks or a novelty tie is the least you can do.

Which brings me to my final mistake.

5. Forget what it's really all about.

The holidays aren't really about the presents; they're about being present (see what I did there?) with your loved ones. So stop Instagramming your holiday haul and try to warm that Grinch-heart by having an actual conversation with your family.

No need to make the puppy face this season. SADIEHART/FLICKR

Darwinism makes fashion sense

REBECCA ROSE/TWITTER

@GRAPHICMATT/TWITTER

Monkeying around

Tweeters go ape over Darwin

Twitter can't stop monkeying around.

Since the discovery of a stylish monkey wandering around a Toronto Ikea parking garage Sunday the Twittersphere has exploded.

Darwin, the rhesus macaque monkey now in the custody of the Story Book sanctuary, has become an overnight Internet sensation and garnered attention from CNN's Anderson Cooper and a number of politicians on Parliament Hill, not to mention media from around the world.

A number of Twitter users took to the Ikea monkey hashtag (#ikeamonkey) Monday to quip about the sharp-dressed man, er, monkey.

One tweeter implied Darwin and Oasis' Liam Gallagher might be long lost brothers.

"If Ikea has any business sense at all, it'll be rushing sheepskin coat-wearing toy monkeys to its outlets by Christmas," said @ColinHalling. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Runaway to runway

SSENSE/CONTRIBUTED

Darwin is setting fashion trends with his tan, double-breasted shearling coat.

- Toronto Life claimed there's a coat to make you look as dapper as the Ikea monkey: the "tan, faux-shearling parka from A.P.C. with inset pockets and a concealed zipper..." (Pictured above, which was published next to a picture of Darwin).

Memes

Ikea monkey often imitated

From one-liners, to silly new Ikea slogans, to Photoshopped pictures, people are having endless amounts of fun with the news that a monkey named Darwin was spotted running around outside an Ikea in a shearling coat on Sunday.

One user posted a picture of the monkey, sporting its stylish coat juxtaposed with pictures of Ryan Gosling and Jared Leto wearing similar jackets asking, "Who wore it best?" TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PERRYCARROT/INSTAGRAM

Metropolitan Panel

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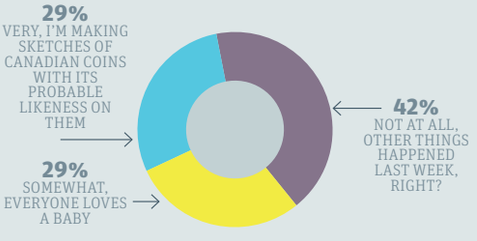
How interested are you in the royal baby?


29%
VERY, I'M MAKING SKETCHES OF CANADIAN COINS WITH ITS PROBABLE LIKENESS ON THEM
29%
SOMEWHAT, EVERYONE LOVES A BABY
42%
NOT AT ALL, OTHER THINGS HAPPENED LAST WEEK, RIGHT?

Twitter

@Quicknessband: Shades of grey - overcast all week in vancouver, but homemade banana blueberry smoothies brightened our day now my smile is a mile wide :)

@kyletiney: Okay #Vancouver, go eat at Dark Table on West 4th! Amazing experience to walk in the shoes of a blind person. Do it!

@MyLoverArlo: Beautiful, moving & filled with the spirit! An impt moment in #vancouver #firstnations solidarity movement. http://instagr.am/p/TEhGQ4gGjg/

@thaiaway: Celebrate the holidays at the Vancouver Christmas Market with delicious treats and wonderful handmade gifts! http://bit.ly/cLrc7W

@JustinPrasad221: We need a vancouver radio station that just plays straight hip hop from before 2005

metro
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MANUFACTURER COUPON | **EXPIRY DATE: MARCH 31, 2013**

Big Boi's new album Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors is his second standalone effort from OutKast. ANDREW ZAEH

Setting the record straight on a dangerous rumour

Big Boi's new album. One half of OutKast has some new work to share, but first Metro had to find out how to Tom Petty someone

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

Vicious Lies and Dangerous Rumors, the second stand-alone solo album from Big Boi, may raise a few questions about a certain Southern musician. No, we're not talking about his erstwhile OutKast collaborator André 3000, but Tom Petty. The first lines of a track with the title spelled out Thom Pettie feature an impossibly deep voice chanting, "Thom Pettie that hoe/Free falling, we out all night." We had to get to the bottom of the meaning before any real vicious lies or dangerous rumours spread.

What does it mean to Tom Petty somebody?
If you're going out for the wild night and you never know where the night is going to take you, we call it free falling. That's called Tom Pettying! If you Tom Petty for the night, you don't know where you're going to end up at in the morning.

Does Tom know about this?
I don't know.

Is this something you're doing to create a dialogue? Would you ever collaborate with him?
Hell yeah! If it was time to do it, then yeah. I'll work with anybody as long as it's fun.

I heard you had been working on something with Modest Mouse, too.
Well, they came and they wanted us to do some work on their album, me and my partner Chris (Carmouche), so they came down for a weekend and we co-produced like three records with them. I think they're just handling some stuff internally, but the songs are dope as hell, and I can't wait for them to come out.

Who else are you trying to work with?
I really want to work with Kate Bush. That's the only person that I haven't worked with that I want to.

I heard that you really wanting to work with her! And you guys are exchanging emails now?
We're actually talking on the phone. We're going to have a face-to-face meeting when I go over to Europe, just to sit down and talk with her, catch up a little bit and see where we can go from there.

How did the collaboration with the bands Phantogram and Little Dragon work? Did either of you come into the studio with ideas you wanted to use?
Not really. It really all starts with the music. We started recording and it was like an experimental process. We started with sound, from scratch, and let the song just build from there.

What kind of back-and-forth did you have with the bands?
As far as production wise, it was tinkering with the music. When we first record all the elements might not be there, and through the course of 13 months the song would change several times, just adding to the music. Me and my partner, Chris (Carmouche), were pretty much in charge of the whole metamorphosis of the music, so I had both Little Dragon and Phantogram each come for like a week straight, and we'd just sit down and record a lot of music. And then we would send the stuff back and forth, and if they had elements they wanted to add, they would add it and send it back to us.

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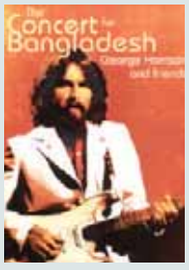
Bruce Springsteen, Kanye West, Alicia Keys and more are banding together for a concert for Hurricane Sandy relief on 12/12/12. While the quaint notion that rock 'n' roll can heal the world's ills may have been dialed back considerably since the 1960s, it certainly can spur fans to donate to a worthy cause.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

5 concerts with benefits

1 Concert for Bangladesh (1971)



HANDOUT

Sitar strummer Ravi Shankar and his most heralded disciple, the Beatles' resident quiet guy George Harrison, rounded up a bunch of their famous buddies to raise funds for Unicef and other aid groups operating in the flood-ravaged and war-torn region. The two resulting shows staged in Madison Square Gardens along with the accompanying benefit album and film raised more than $15 million and proved that when properly harnessed, music can be a powerful force in building awareness and helping to affect change. Concert for Bangladesh is often heralded as the godfather of marquee benefit concerts of global import. Headliners: Ravi Shankar, George Harrison, Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan, Billy Preston.

2 Live 8 (2005)

GETTY IMAGES

The sequel to Live Aid really upped the ante on its predecessor with an even loftier goal, the eradication of poverty through African debt forgiveness, trade concessions and billions in new aid. Bob Geldolf turned the volume up on the musical extravaganza, arranging more than quadruple the participating venues. Star packed bills played Berlin, Cornwall, Edinburgh, Johannesburg, London, Moscow, Paris, Philadelphia, Chiba, Japan and Barrie, Ont. Still, London's Hyde Park was clearly the show to be at with the likes of U2, REM, and Elton John among the warm-up acts. Headliners: Pink Floyd, Bjork, Pet Shop Boys, The Cure, Neil Young.

3 Hope for Haiti Now (2010)

GETTY IMAGES

Merely a couple weeks after a 7.0 earthquake decimated the island nation killing 300,000 and displacing 1.5 million into tent cities, a telethon benefiting the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, Oxfam and other Haiti relief charities was staged. Host Wyclef Jean provided the show's most memorable moment. "Hold up, enough of the moping, let's rebuild Haiti, let's show 'em how we do it where we come from," he hollered midway through Rivers of Babylon before launching into Yele, a rhythmic jam. Headliners: Alicia Keys, Rihanna, Taylor Swift, Madonna.

4 Live Aid (1985)

GETTY IMAGES

Packed houses at Wembley in London, England and JFK Stadium in Philadelphia along with 1.9 billion home viewers tuned in to catch the concert of the decade, an ambitious dual venue benefit bent on quashing hunger in Ethiopia. At the Philly show folk star Joan Baez set the tone: "Good morning, children of the '80s. This is your Woodstock, and it's long overdue." The most touching moment came at the curtain call when the stage filled with dozens of artists sharing mics for an emotional rendition of We Are the World. Headliners: Sting, Queen, U2, Madonna, Run-DMC and Phil Collins, who played Live Aid on both sides of the pond by hopping on a Concorde flight.

5 SARSstock (2003)

TORSTAR ARCHIVES

Toronto hotels were on life support in the wake of a World Health Organization travel advisory warning that goosed pandemic fears and spooked potential visitors. Leave it to the Rolling Stones, whose deep affection for the city spurred the legendary band to help resuscitate a flat lining tourism industry. The aim of this hastily arranged music marathon was to show to the world that Toronto was safe and open for business. Upwards of 490,000 revellers, including yours truly, swarmed Downsview Park on a steamy day in July for the biggest ticketed concert in Canadian history. Headliners: Rolling Stones, AC/DC, Rush, The Guess Who, Blue Rodeo.

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MANUFACTURER COUPON | EXPIRY DATE: December 31, 2012

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Simple Plan have been together for more than a decade, and now they have a book to document their story. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Simple Plan puts their 12-year story in book for their fans

Definitive history. Chuck Comeau's tendency to collect everything has paid off

IAN GORMELY
scene@metronews.ca

Every parent has at least one box of their adult children's things buried in the basement, or tucked away in an attic. But whatever misgivings they may have about their kid's junk pales in comparison to the array of items Chuck Comeau's been storing at his parent's home for the last 15 years.

The Simple Plan drummer has played the role of "archivist" in the Montreal-based band since he and singer Pierre Bouvier started out as Reset when they were teenagers.

"In the early years, you don't really know if you're going to become successful," he says, as he autographs a foot-tall stack of press photos of the five-piece group.

"For some reason, we felt it would be cool to look back on that stuff."

Comeau finally made good on his threat last summer, digging through the 30 boxes of set lists, ticket stubs and even record label rejection letters in preparation for a book, titled Simple Plan: The Official Story, that celebrates the 10th anniversary of the group's debut album, No Pads, No Helmets ... Just Balls.

"It took a long time," he says.

"You would stop and read something and think, 'Oh my God, I can't believe I still have that.'"

Included with the various ephemera are some of the 45,000 photos the group have banked over their twelve year run, during which they've sold close to 10 million albums.

"The first two albums, was non-stop, straight, zig-zagging around the planet," recalls rhythm guitarist Sebastien Lefebvre.

"To see how much we've done was the most fun part for me."

Quebec journalist Kathleen Lavoie tells their story, creating what Comeau calls "a cool artifact."

"We put ourselves in the shoes of a hardcore fan," he says.

"My favourite band is Blink 182. I wish they would make this book. I would buy it."

All around the world...

Over the course of their 12-years together the boys in Simple Plan have played in 52 countries. "We've toured to a lot of places bands don't go," says Comeau. Their taste for exotic concert locals came after their debut single I'm Just a Kid hit in Japan. They arrived to fans at the airport and an enthusiastic reaction at their gigs. "That sort of gave us the itch to go everywhere else," says Lefebvre. By the end of the month they'll have added another notch on the belt when they play in Mumbai, India. Says Comeau: "We're curious to see how far our music has gone."

Quoted

"In the early years, you don't really know if you're going to become successful. For some reason, we felt it would be cool to look back on that stuff."

Simple Plan drummer Chuck Comeau on amassing all kinds of memorabilia from the band's early days.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Beyoncé: Now brought to you by Pepsi

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Pepsi is throwing a ton of cash — $50 million, to be exact — at Beyoncé to make the singer the "face" of the company. Here's what the deal includes:

- Beyoncé's face will be found on limited-edition cans, starting in March.
- She'll be featured in TV commercials, the biggest of which will debut after her Super Bowl XLVII halftime performance on Feb. 3.
- She will also appear in the usual media: billboards, magazine advertisements, etc.
- Pepsi will sponsor her tour.
- And here's where the deal might become an interesting collaboration: Pepsi will fund Beyoncé's creative whims, which might not have explicit connection to the soda giant, per the New York Times. This might mean live events, videos, "a cool photo shoot" or anything that Beyoncé might think of, said Lee Anne Callahan-Longo, the general manager of Parkwood Entertainment, Beyoncé's company.

Is anyone else surprised by this collaboration? I know it's hard to say no to $50 million, but soda is bad, y'all. Isn't she worried about lending her image and name to something that is known to cause wide-spread health problems?

Or am I just being all Mayor Bloomberg about this? Even looking past lending her image to a can of sugar, isn't Pepsi the No. 2 can of sugar? Leave Pepsi to Kelly Rowland, girl! You're a Coca-Cola girl all the way!

Twitter

@Pink
I'm wishing everyone a little more tolerance this year in their stocking. For the new year. For Chanukah. Whatever you celebrate. After reading some of your responses to my happy Chanukah last night, I feel tolerance is something a lot of you need.

@channingtatum
Big thanks to the kids in Ms. Ochoa's 5th grade class at Poway's Valley Elementary! Great job on your project!

@rustyrockets
Anyone who does the (traumatic) Sydney Bridge Climb today tell "Bernie" the guide my Mum fancies him.

@ladygaga
He had me at "hello, it's Mick."

Demi Moore

Demi gets down: Moore's in Miami, trick!

Demi Moore is hitting Miami in a big way. The actress has been spotted around town multiple nights in a row at nightclubs and hotspots, living it up until the wee hours, according to Us Weekly. "The whole table was drinking," a source says after seeing Moore's gang kick off a recent night at club FDR. "She sat between two guys and was laughing, having fun." The group then hit up several other clubs before arriving at Rec Room around 4 a.m. "They were all starving," the source says. "They sat in the club eating burgers and fries and drinking beer until the club closed and the lights went on." While Moore's partying has led to problems before — including hospitalization and a stint in rehab earlier this year — a friend insists everything's fine, telling the magazine the actress is "in a good place. She's open to experiencing new things this year."

Doherty reaches out to help troubled fan

Celebrities often say they care about their fans, but Shannen Doherty means it. The former Beverly Hills 90210 star called 911 from L.A. recently to get help for a Twitter follower in New Jersey Doherty believed was suicidal, according to TMZ. "This is going to sound incredibly strange," Doherty says on the 911 call, obtained by the website. "My name is Shannen Doherty and I'm an actress, and there is a girl who is threatening to shoot herself." The unidentified 27-year-old woman had sent Doherty messages on Twitter claiming she would kill herself if Doherty didn't call her on the phone. "My security guys told me to block her because she's aggressive and does very erratic things," Doherty says on the emergency call. "I felt bad for her, to be honest."

Lindsay hitches a ride on the romance bus

Lindsay Lohan ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

How serious are things getting between Lindsay Lohan and British boy-bander Max George? So serious that the troubled starlet has reportedly moved into his band The Wanted's tour bus, according to Hollyscoop. "(There's) no separate space, she bunks with the boys," the band tells the website. "It's nice to have a girl around. She keeps us in check." And George has been boasting of the supposedly sober Lohan's partying prowess, telling New York's Z100 radio station, "She always brings vodka to the table."

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Fatty foods and a slim waist? It's a French secret

Health and well being. Metro's nutritionist takes on a French diet; chocolate soufflé and all

THERESA ALBERT
myfriendinfood.com

January will bring with it the resolution to lose weight or "get healthy," but come on, we all know it never works.

We are sidelined by the French-women-don't-get-fat-so-I-can-have-this-croissant the-size-of-my-face rationalization.

Wanting to test the French diet theory, I spent three days eating like the women I saw around me on a recent trip to Paris.

I asked a lot of questions and did everything they would do including eat late, drink wine, embrace cream and other fatty foods. What I discovered was that there is more, much more to it than meets the eye.

A typical (or slightly more decadent than typical) food day in Paris follows this pattern:

8 a.m.
Tiny croissant (four inches long), one teaspoon butter, one teaspoon jam and an espresso

10 a.m.
Espresso

1 p.m.
Fish soufflé, small salad, tiny scrap of bread, chocolate soufflé, one or two glasses of red wine

4 p.m.
Espresso, tiny cookie, a few nuts (four)

9 p.m.
Three ounces foie gras, five ounces baked fish, small scrap of bread, insanely buttery mushrooms, two or three glasses red wine, three homemade caramels.

The French food diet isn't for everybody, but there are reasons it can work. HANDOUT

I diligently followed the pattern, with variations, breaking every rule I have learned (and spouted) as a nutritionist.

By the end of the three days, my palate was happy as a clam but my body felt as sick as a dog.

Whether I am genetically unfit or my digestive system is untrained, this diet was clearly not meant for me.

Portion sizes were small enough that, even though the composition of the food was fattier, I was probably still clocking my average of 1,800 calories on a non workout day.

After only three days, my guts were churning, my gall bladder was screaming at me and I had gained a full pound and .01 per cent of a body fat percentage. This is statistically insignificant and unscientific to be sure, but it was interesting to note. My liver was probably ticked at me too, but livers are quiet, workaday organs that don't complain much.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Secrets of the French

My goal was to come up with a take-home message that lets us enjoy the best of the French paradox while still applying a nutritionist's knowledge. Here are the secrets at play that let them get away with it:

- **Walk.** Parisians walk all day long, they walk to the subway, they take the stairs, they don't try to fit in a trip to the gym, but instead, they work their exercise into their day.
- **Drink.** Small, calorie free espressos fuel the day with less caffeine and fat than one double double adding up to about 300 calories less than the average Canadian's consumption (caloric-ally, that buys you two glasses of wine).
- **Hunger.** Caffeine consumed in this espresso fashion suppresses the appetite, sugary, fatty lattes do the opposite
- **Hunger.** Choosing full fat foods (not beverages) suppress the appetite and allow a little to go a long way

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Liven up ho-hum spinach with pecans, pears and brie

This recipe serves 8. BRIAN MACDONALD/ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

The sweet and savoury combination of cinnamon-sugared pecans, ripe pears and small morsels of brie is sensational. There is very little oil in this recipe, but you won't miss it. You can easily make this a main meal salad by adding some grilled chicken or shrimp.

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a baking sheet with cooking oil.

2. Rinse the pecans with cold water. Drain, but do not let them dry. Combine the icing sugar, cinnamon, allspice and nutmeg in a small bowl. Dip the pecans in the sugar mixture, coating them well. Spread on the prepared baking sheet.

3. Bake for 15 minutes in the centre of the oven. Remove and cool. When they're cool enough to handle, chop coarsely.

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup pecan halves
- 3 tbsp icing sugar
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp allspice
- 1/8 tsp nutmeg
- 8 cups baby spinach leaves
- 1 cup diced radicchio
- 1 large ripe pear, peeled, cored and diced
- 2 oz brie, diced
- 2 tbsp orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1/2 tsp liquid honey
- 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard

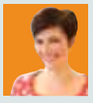
4. Combine the spinach, radicchio, pear and brie in a large serving bowl.

5. Whisk the juice concentrate, oil, vinegar, garlic, honey and mustard in a small bowl. Pour over the salad and toss to coat. Garnish with the candied pecans.

ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Health Solutions

Liver and let live



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert, DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

I'm guessing that by now you've been to at least three more parties than during any other month of the year. And more parties means more drinks.

It's a good time to think about how to protect your liver (year-round, but especially now). The liver does more than process alcohol — it has more than 500 jobs, including balancing your hormones and filtering every drop of blood.

Here are some foods that give your liver the nutrients it needs to keep you healthy:

- High selenium foods for proper enzyme activity: Brazil nuts, brewer's yeast, kelp, brown rice, garlic, onions and molasses.
- High methionine foods that aid in detoxification pathways: eggs, fish, legumes and seeds.
- High sulphur foods that aid in detoxification: broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and brussels sprouts.
- Vitamin B5, which speeds up detoxification of acetaldehyde after alcohol consumption: whole grains, chicken, wheat bran and nuts.
- Vitamin B1, which reduces the toxic effects of alcohol, smoking and lead: wheat germ, dried peas and soybeans.
- Coffee, which has phytonutrients that help support the liver: three small cups per day, maximum.

And for heaven's sake, don't take acetaminophen (Tylenol) for a hangover, the combination with alcohol is toxic to the liver.

THERESA ALBERT IS AN AUTHOR AND ON CALL, PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

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Behaving at the office Xmas party

Learn how to party smartly at your Christmas work do. HANDOUT

Holiday health. The big boss + free booze + a confined space = recipe for disaster. Don't let a night that's meant to be about festive fun turn into a nightmare

ROMINA McGUINNESS
romina.mcguinness@metro.lu

The holiday party is one occasions you can let your hair down, but there's a fine line between having some fun and misbehaving.

Etiquette advisor Jo Bryant, of the UK's leading authority on modern manners, Debrett's, tells Metro: "The aim is to keep your dignity. You're socializing with your colleagues, but with your bosses as well. It's about creating the right impression while making it seem like you're relaxed."

She talks us through the do's and the don'ts of the office party:

Look the part

DO meet workplace standards
"Make sure you look smart and well groomed and that you're fitting in with the ethos of the office. If you work in a very corporate environment, you'll probably be going somewhere smarter, so dress appropriately."

DON'T overdo it
If you work in a more relaxed office atmosphere, turning up in your best party frock when everyone else is in jeans might not be appropriate.

Dress the part

DO wear something different
This creates that distinction between a Christmas party, not a Monday. You want to look good — but don't go over the top by wearing something really out there.

DON'T wear what you wore to the office that day
If everyone else is going to make an effort and get changed, do the same.

Bulk up the contacts

DO circulate and socialize
Now is your opportunity to chat to people you don't normally speak to or have access to — like the boss.

DON'T be arrogant
Get your behaviour up to scratch. As you go around the room, stop to speak to people higher up in the pecking order. But that doesn't mean you should ignore people of lower ranking than you.

Analysis

Why you should stay clear of office romance

As you get carried away in the festive spirit and drink too much mulled wine with a cute colleague, one thing could lead to another and you could end up getting a little too close.

"Hooking up with a colleague is something you'll probably regret in the morning," explains Bryant. "It's not the kind of one-night stand you can walk away from and forget about because the moment you get back into the office you're going to be face-to-face with your mistake. And if other people find out, you're not going to do your career any favours. Having said that, romance might blossom, but usually stay clear.

Be chill

DO impress people without promoting yourself
"This isn't the time to ask for a pay rise or complain. Avoid office chat, unless the big boss instigates it and seems keen to get your opinion. But equally, if you can talk to them about their family and their holidays, they might see you as more than just another member of staff.

DON'T shun your colleagues
Never neglect your team and spend the entire party schmoozing everyone else. Equally, don't just cling on to them and feel nervous about making new work friends.

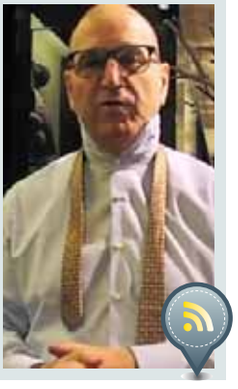
Know your limits

DO drink, but don't get drunk
Hold yourself. If you're drunker than your companions, that's a big no-no. You should never be the drunkest person at the party.

DON'T be a party pooper
If you're feeling as though things are getting out of control and decide to stop drinking, don't make a big thing about it. Hang in there and don't draw too much attention to yourself. Order a tonic water so it still looks like you're having a drink.

Exclusively online

- **Knot a problem.** It's holiday party season and you want to wear a tie. Larry Rosen, CEO of Harry Rosen (below), shows Metro how to tie his favourite knot. Watch the video on The Man Blog at metronews.ca.



The morning after

DO be sensible
"If the next day is a full working day, then arrive on time. Organize a quiet day for yourself — hopefully you won't have a huge meeting of the year at 10 a.m."

DON'T broadcast a hangover
Put on the freshest face you possibly can and deal with it in a discreet manner. You'll probably struggle through the day, but don't go on about how much pain you're in. No one wants to know, because everyone else is feeling the same.

Things to avoid

ETIQUETTE ADVISOR JO BRYANT
debretts.com

Drunken confrontations
No matter how tempting it might be, now is not the time to settle your differences with a colleague. Rise above it and let them look the fool.

Solo dancing
If everyone else is shaking it out on the dance floor, then fine. But don't be the only person on the dance floor for a long period of time.

Not focusing
Focus your attention the right way. Tonight is about fine-tuning your attentions, speaking to the right people and having a good time. If you step out of line in any way, then people will remember you as the embarrassing person.

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Is regifting a social faux-pas?

FUN AND FRUGAL
Lesley Scorgie
money@metronews.ca

In the past, regifting, couponing and bulk buying presents was considered a social faux-pas because it meant the gift-giver was being cheap.

But I couldn't disagree more. Resourcefulness is not the same as being cheap. Besides, stretching your dollars and taking advantage of opportunities to save money over the holidays will keep you out of debt, reduce waste and still allow you to spoil everyone on your gift list.

Wrap up that extra garlic press you received for your birthday and give it to your brother. Otherwise, it'll sit in your cupboard collecting dust. According to Couponcabin.com, nearly 40 per cent of North Americans regift presents and a large majority use coupons when holiday shopping. The most commonly re-gifted items are gift cards and duplicate and unwanted products.

If you plan to regift or coupon, follow these socially acceptable gift-giving parameters. Ensure the present is in its original wrapping and don't re-gift something that has clear signs it's been used. Remove your name from any tags or cards and don't give the gift back to the same person who gifted it to you. Avoid re-gifting intimate or personal hygiene products like underwear, nose hair clippers or razors. If you've received a sentimental gift, don't re-gift it because it could upset the person who gave it to you.

If you've bought something on sale or through a coupon, remove the bright red sale sticker and price tag. While opening presents, don't blurt out how proud you are that you used a coupon, be discreet.

When planning your holiday spending, be resourceful. Bulk buying some items like stocking stuffers or appreciation gifts for friends or colleagues is wise. Cash in unused loyalty rewards points toward gifts. Dig through your wallet, purse and junk drawer for any partially used gift cards. Use the gift cards toward gift purchases or cash them in towards a new gift card amount, pick a round number like $25 rather than regifting your card with $17.97 left on it.

Hoping to unwrap a pet on Christmas day?

Alison on Money.
Small pets seem like a great gift idea — but don't forget about the future costs

YOUR MONEY
Alison Griffiths
money@metronews.ca

Lories and hotots and skinks, oh my! If it's a holiday pet you are considering, the choice is now enormous, especially among rodents, birds, fish and reptiles.

However, before you buy, be aware of care requirements and on-going costs.

According to the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, $30 for a guinea pig is only the beginning.

The first year outlay will be just over $700 and about $635 annually after that.

In a 2011 report, Kiplinger.com rated fish as the cheapest pet both in terms of purchase and maintenance.

Gloriously hued guppies are as little as $1 and annual costs a mere $20, though set up can easily exceed $225 for an aquarium and all the fixings.

Perhaps your son or daughter has just seen How to Train Your Dragon and wants a bearded dragon (quite sociable, by the way.)

After spending $50 to $60 for the scaly beast, you will need a 40-gallon or larger terrarium, furniture for basking and hiding, bedding or a reptile carpet (yes, such a thing exists), calcium dust for a twice-weekly "shower" and, of course, food.

Making a basic happy home for a beardie costs from $500 to $1,000 — not including the lizard hammock.

At the cheaper end of things, a simple cage for a gerbil or rat or hamster is about $25 to $35, but pet owners are as keen to renovate as homeowners.

Just how much is a $1 goldfish going to set you back? ISTOCK IMAGES

Multi-level critter apartments can easily run to $200, not including toys and decor.

A pet budget and research will save you from what I call Iguana Shock Syndrome.

A friend in Victoria, B.C. bought an itty-bitty green iguana in 1990.

Fourteen years later, the nearly two-metre creature had taken over the spare bedroom and its care was rivaling the cost of a child. And like a teenager, Moe was cranky.

A good beginning resource is mypetsmart.com (go to pet care solutions, then care guides) where you'll find that the bearded dragon is an omnivore recommended for age 10 and up and lives approximately 10 years.

Dozens of pets are listed as suitable for beginner, intermediate or advanced owners.

Contact Alison at griffiths.alison@gmail.com or alisongriffiths.ca

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Christine Sinclair celebrates after winning the bronze-medal soccer game at the London Olympic Games in August. Sinclair is the winner of the 2012 Lou Marsh Award. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sinclair 'in shock' after winning Marsh award

Spectacular year. Canadian soccer star feted as Toronto Star's athlete of year

Women's soccer sensation Christine Sinclair was named the winner of the 2012 Lou Marsh Award on Monday.

The 29-year-old Sinclair led Canada to bronze at the London Olympics in spectacular fashion, scoring an Olympic-record six goals to win the Golden Boot. She recorded a hat trick in a 4-3 extra-time semifinal loss to the United States.

The Burnaby native had 23 goals and six assists on the year for Canada.

"I'm just in shock," Sinclair said on a conference call. "I can't believe first of all, the year I've had and the year my teammates had. And then to have this continue on, it's incredible, especially to have a female soccer player in Canada win this award."

The honour — decided by a panel of national sports editors, reporters and broadcasters — is given annually to Canada's outstanding athlete by the Toronto Star.

Other finalists for the Marsh award were speedskater Christine Nesbitt, trampolinist and Olympic gold medallist Rosie MacLennan, figure skater Patrick Chan, cyclist Ryder Hesjedal and Calgary Stampeders running back Jon Cornish.

Sinclair was Canada's flagbearer at the closing ceremonies in London. According to the Canadian Soccer Association, Sinclair contributed to 65.9 per cent of her team's scoring in 2012.

She said head coach Jon Herdman deserves plenty of credit.

"I know he brought back the passion and the love of the sport within me," she said. "He had me believing that absolutely anything was possible as an individual soccer player and he's the first coach in a long time that has had the veteran players on the team learning new things."

Sinclair's 143 career international goals rank third all-time and second among active players behind American Abby Wambach (148).

Sinclair was suspended four matches by FIFA, the sport's governing body, for comments she made after Canada's semi-final loss to the U.S.

She was recently snubbed for FIFA's women's player of the year award. Americans Abby Wambach and Alex Morgan and Brazil's Marta were on the shortlist after a vote by national team coaches, captains and reporters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

143

Christine Sinclair's 143 career international goals rank third all-time and second among active players behind American Abby Wambach (148).

World juniors. Local flavour highlights Canadian camp

Burnaby's Ryan Nugent-Hopkins arrives in Calgary on Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada's selection camp for the 2013 world junior hockey championship will feature a quintet of Lower Mainland players.

Goaltender Laurent Brossoit (Surrey); defencemen Griffin Reinhart, Morgan Rielly (West Vancouver) and Tyler Wotherspoon (Surrey); and forward Ryan Nugent-Hopkins (Burnaby) will each vie for a spot on Team Canada, which will open the annual holiday tournament on Boxing Day against Germany in Ufa, Russia.

North Vancouver's Colton Sissons was named to the camp, but he will not take part due to an upper-body injury.

Nugent-Hopkins, who last season at the age of 19 and a member of the Edmonton Oilers was a finalist for the NHL's Calder Trophy as the league's top rookie, was cleared to take part in the camp after having his left shoulder examined last week.

The camp begins Tuesday in Calgary, as players will be divided into Team Red and Team White. The squads will practise separately before playing each other Tuesday night.

The Canadian selection-camp team will then play the University of Alberta Golden Bears of the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Canada West Conference in exhibition games Wednesday and Thursday.

Canada is coming off a bronze-medal performance at last year's tournament in Calgary.

Canada had advanced to the gold-medal game 10 consecutive years prior to the 2012 competition, when it was ousted by Russia in the semi-final. METRO

NHL

Malhotra says players 'unified'

The NHL's rejection of the players' association's proposal at the end of intense negotiations last week has further galvanized the union, according to Manny Malhotra.

"There's guys of the mindset that we've given too much and they didn't want to see us give any more with our last proposal," Malhotra, the Vancouver Canucks centre, told reporters Monday at UBC.

"As far as we've come with our last proposal, and for them to reject it outright and call everything off, I think that pissed a lot of guys off and again, similar to their first deal and the beginning of the summer, made us that more unified and strong."

The two sides now appear to agree on a 50-50 split of hockey-related revenue (HRR), and the NHL had upped its "make whole" provision — payment from owners as the players transition from 57 per cent of HRR in the last CBA to 50 per cent in the next agreement — to $300 million during last week's talks.

The two sides are still divided on the length of player contracts and the length of a new CBA.

Malhotra was in New York last week, as a group of players, owners and members of the league and union's legal teams met for negotiations.

The first day of talks brought optimism that the two sides might reach a new CBA and save the season. By Thursday, pessimism took over as negotiations blew up in dramatic fashion.

"Right from the get-go, (NHLPA executive director Don Fehr) mentioned that the biggest thing throughout this whole process is going to be patience," said Malhotra, "and that's definitely been tested over the past few months and especially last week."

On Monday, the league cancelled more games through Dec. 30.

Canucks defenceman Kevin Bieksa added: "Most of us thought maybe September — end of September — October, November, we'd be able to get a deal done. Right now, this is just unfortunate."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Manny Malhotra THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Patriots stamp themselves as team to beat in the AFC

NFL. New England blows out the Texans in a battle of the two highest-scoring teams in the league

Week 14

Patriots	Texans
42	14

Look out. That familiar sight is the New England Patriots romping through December, looking like a Super Bowl team.

The Patriots rolled over Houston 42-14 on Monday night, stamping themselves once again as the team to fear in the AFC — and making the Texans look like pretenders.

Tom Brady threw for four touchdowns and 296 yards as New England manhandled the team with the league's best record. The Patriots (10-3), who already own the AFC East title, won their seventh straight and moved one game behind the Texans (11-2) for the conference's top seed.

"It's a Monday night game," Brady said. "We have played in a lot of big games in December."

A matchup of the top two scoring teams in the league was a mismatch from the outset. It took New England only one possession to start its scoring barrage as the Patriots surpassed their average of 35.8 points per game.

"It needs to come together now, this is the perfect time for it," added Brady, who became a father for the third time last Wednesday when his wife, Gisele Bundchen, gave birth to Vivian Lake.

"She is doing very well," Brady said. "It's been a great week, a great way to end it."

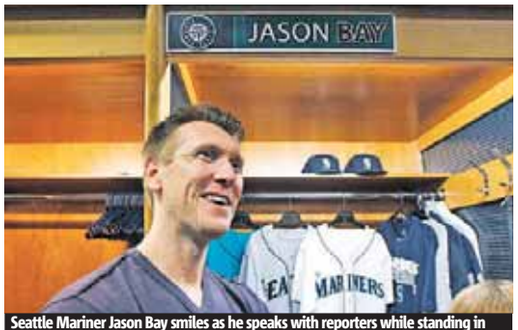
Wes Welker's 31-yard punt return and 25-yard reception — the 107th straight game he's had a catch — led to Aaron Hernandez's seven-yard score. That gave Brady 45 consecutive games with a TD pass, third longest in NFL history.

New England secured its 20th successive home win in December, and its 21st straight victory in the second half of the schedule.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New England Patriots wide receiver Donte' Stallworth dives into the end zone while dragging Houston Texans defensive back Quintin Demps for a touchdown Monday in Foxborough, Mass. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bay eager for fresh start with young Mariners team



Seattle Mariner Jason Bay smiles as he speaks with reporters while standing in front of his new locker Monday in Seattle. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jason Bay took a glance at the Seattle Mariners' 40-man roster and suddenly realized how unique he will be.

He's one of only two players on that current roster who was born in the 1970s.

"I don't feel like I'm that old, but I guess I am around here," the 34-year-old Bay, from Trail, B.C., said Monday.

While he may not exactly fit the Mariners' model of relying on young prospects to rebuild the franchise, Bay could fill a significant need for Seattle in the 2013 season. He was introduced on Monday after his one-year contract with the Mariners was finalized over the weekend.

Bay said he hopes a fresh start with the Mariners can put three seasons of struggles — mostly due to injuries — with the New York Mets in the past.

"Where ever I ended up was going to be a fresh start and the chance to do it here in my backyard, so to speak, will be nice," said Bay, who grew up in British Columbia and played college ball at Gonzaga. "That's all I was looking for. It didn't work out for whatever reason and it was kind of a mutual split. I want to start fresh and wipe the slate clean and that's what I get to do here."

After signing a $66-million US, four-year deal before the 2010 season, the three-time all-star hit .234 in three injury-plagued seasons with 26 homers and 124 RBIs, including a .165 average with eight homers and 20 RBIs this year. Sidelined by concussions and rib injuries, he played just 288 games for the Mets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Medical exam

Because of Bay's injury history, the Mariners went to great lengths once an agreement was reached.

- Bay was examined by two team doctors and a neurosurgeon to make sure he was fully recovered from the concussion problems that lingered during his time with the New York Mets.

MLB

Langley's Lawrie to open facility for local children

Toronto Blue Jays third baseman and Langley native Brett Lawrie will help open the Jays Care Community Clubhouse in his hometown on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Lawrie joined the Jays, Canada's lone Major League Baseball team, after a trade with the Milwaukee Brewers in 2010. The new space is a result of a $250,000 Field of Dreams grant from the Jays Care Foundation.

The facility is expected to serve 250 kids in Langley's Douglas Park area, which is near Glover Road and Fraser Highway.

METRO

Brett Lawrie GETTY IMAGES

Soccer

Mueller gives Messi his blessing

Gerd Mueller called Lionel Messi "the best player in the world" after the Barcelona forward broke the German's scoring record.

Messi scored his 85th and 86th goals of 2012 on Sunday in the Spanish league, breaking Mueller's 40-year-old record for goals in a calendar year. Mueller told Sport1.de "my record stood for 40 years — 85 goals in 60 games — and now the best player in the world has broken it, and I'm delighted for him."

Mueller scored his goals for Germany and Bayern Munich in 1972. Messi has scored his for Barcelona and Argentina.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

"Winning is what I want and I won't stop until I do."

New Edmonton Eskimos general manager Ed Hervey vowed he won't stop until he returns the Edmonton Eskimos to their winning ways. Hervey played wide receiver with the Eskimos.

Pacquiao facing tough choices after stunning loss

Manny Pacquiao lays face down on the mat after being knocked out in the sixth round by Juan Manuel Marquez on Saturday night at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Boxing. Politics and showbiz appear to have sidetracked world's highest-paid fighter

Manny Pacquiao has already achieved what most of his countrymen can only dream of: Lifting himself out of wrenching poverty, securing a future for his children and becoming a hero to Filipinos the world over.

Not content with just winning in the ring, Pacquiao also set about making his mark in politics.

But after his stunning loss to Juan Manuel Marquez in Las Vegas on Saturday, the 34-year-old is facing some of the toughest questions of his remarkable 17-year career: Does his future lay in boxing, politics, show business, religion or a new challenge?

"Being the king of boxing, being the highest-paid athlete in boxing ... it goes with the territory," boxing analyst Ed Tolentino said. "For Pacquiao, the fame was too much to handle. There was just too many things on his plate other than boxing."

The distraction was costly for Pacquiao, who trained for two months, compared to 4 1/2 for Marquez.

During that time the Mexican bulked up and became more muscular to withstand the blows from Pacquiao that proved so damaging in their three previous encounters.

Pacquiao grew up a survivor and fighter, overcoming poverty in a country where half of the population lives on $2 a day.

But as the titles, honours and money started pouring in, so did distractions.

Politicians, minor actors and an assortment of hangers-on formed his huge entourage.

In a nation where celebrities, money and politics equal a winning formula, Pacquiao played his card by running for Congress in 2007, but lost.

The most popular face in town, he turned to crooning his own songs. His picture endorsed countless products. He's a regular on TV, and hosts his own show. He's made a movie.

Pacquiao was elected to Congress from his southern Sarangani province in 2010, and has announced he will run for re-election next year.

But questions arose if Pacquiao was showing the wear of 17 years in the ring, and whether the distractions were catching up with him, after a decision awarding his June fight to Timothy Bradley.

Saturday's loss to Marquez, whom he had beaten twice and drawn once, only made the question more urgent, although Pacquiao made no mention of a possible retirement.

"Among boxers, they don't have the word retirement in their dictionary. It's so hard to admit that all of sudden it's over, especially for Pacquiao," Tolentino said.

"His demotion was from the penthouse to the doghouse."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I think really there has to be a lot of soul searching.... He has to consult his family, his real entourage."

Boxing analyst Ed Tolentino on Manny Pacquiao

Boxing

Late fighter Gatti heading to Hall

Arturo Gatti wasn't the biggest talent in boxing, but the flash and power he showed in the ring was enough to put the Montreal fighter into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

The hall announced Monday that Gatti, five-time world champion Virgil Hill and South Korean light flyweight Yuh Myung-Woo were elected as the class of 2013.

They will be enshrined June 9 in Canastota, N.Y.

Gatti's family plans to attend the ceremony.

The two-time champion died under mysterious circumstances three years ago in Brazil. Police pronounced it a suicide, but his family and others in boxing believe foul play was involved.

Jeremy Filosa, a radio sports reporter in Montreal who was a childhood friend of Gatti's and who sometimes acts as a spokesman for the family, said they felt relief at the announcement.

"This has put a bit of a smile back on their faces," said Filosa. "What's been good over the last couple of days is that we're talking a lot more about Arturo the athlete and his career and not about how he passed away."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arturo Gatti during his IBA welterweight title fight against Thomas Damgaard in January 2006. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Heat pull it together vs. Hawks

Heat forward LeBron James dribbles against the Hawks' Al Horford on Monday night in Miami. MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

LeBron James leaped as high as he can soar. Dwyane Wade shot better than he ever has before.

And when the Miami Heat stars are on their games like that ... "We probably won't lose," James said.

Such was the case Monday night. James scored 27 points, Wade had 26 and the Heat pulled away in the second half to beat the Atlanta Hawks 101-92

James (10 for 16) and Wade (11 for 13, the best single-game shooting percentage of his career) made 21 of 29 shots for Miami, which shot 58 per cent as a team. Chris Bosh had 14 points and 10 rebounds and Norris Cole made all four of his shots to score 10 for the Heat, who handed the Hawks just their second loss in 11 games.

"Just trying to be as efficient as I can," Wade said. "Shooting 13 shots, it's nothing I'm used to. Some nights you go for 11 for 13. Some nights you go 3 for 13. But you just try to continue to be aggressive and continue taking shots."

Josh Smith scored 22 points and Al Horford finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds for Atlanta, which briefly held the lead midway through the third quarter before the Heat got rolling to move 1 1/2 games ahead of the Hawks in the Southeast Division. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Parker's triple-double leads Spurs past Rockets in overtime

Gary Neal scored 29 points and Tony Parker had a triple-double to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 134-126 overtime win against the Houston Rockets on Monday night.

Parker had 27 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists to complement Neal's 7-of-10 performance from three-point range.

Jeremy Lin had his best game since joining the Rockets, scoring a career-high-tying 38 points with leading scorer James Harden sidelined by a sprained right ankle.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spurs guard Tony Parker drives past Houston's Jeremy Lin on Monday in San Antonio. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
By all means "borrow" someone else's design if you think it will benefit you in some way. There's no copyright on ideas or insights – if they're out there in the public domain you are entitled to use them.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be tempted to sell a possession that means a lot to you, but if you do you will most likely regret it. No matter how desperate your money situation may be you should hang on a little while longer.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You must not let other people get away with making statements that you know to be untrue. Make it your aim to point out the errors and inconsistencies in what so-called "experts" are trying to pass off as facts.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The planets are about to show you a way that you can better yourself without having to work your fingers to the bone 24 hours a day. There are no easy routes to fame and fortune but there are certainly a few shortcuts.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The message of the stars is that you are subconsciously putting obstacles in your path because you are not sure you are doing the right thing. In which case maybe you should think again about your current plans.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will help a friend or work colleague resolve a difficult problem today. Watch out though that you don't get suckered into doing something for others just because they are too lazy to do it for themselves.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The answer to your current problem is quite obvious and the only reason you can't see it is because you are looking in the wrong place. Trying widening your horizons a little. Bring the bigger picture into focus.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
A work or money problem is not going to just fade away: it will only be resolved when you resolve to do something about it. You don't have to have the definitive answer – just make a decisive move of some sort.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you want something enough you will find a way to get it. However, for best results you are advised not to aim for anything too grand. Make it something of a material nature, something you can hold in your hand.

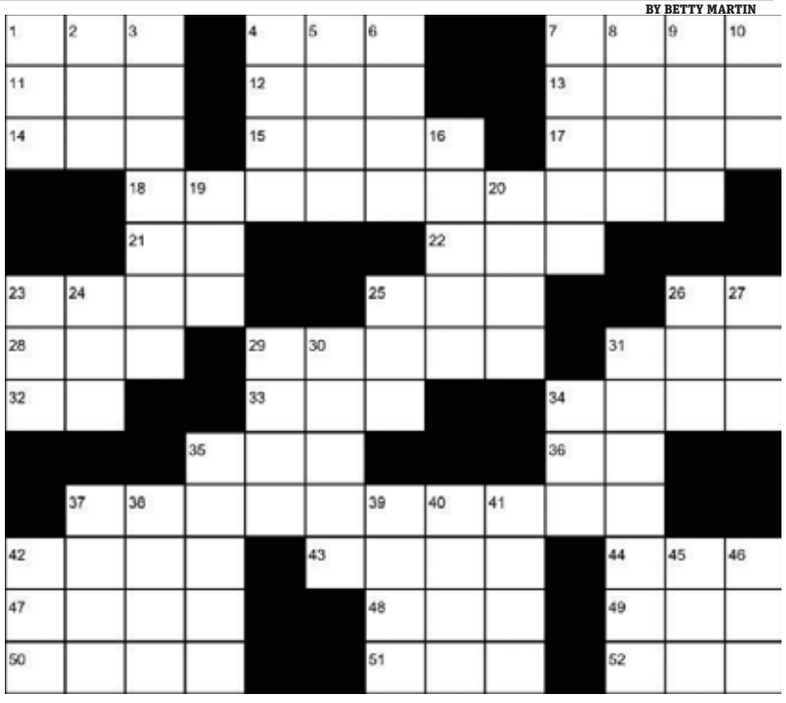
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You can look at what happens today either as an interesting challenge or a situation to be avoided. Either way is valid but you will have more fun, and learn more, if you treat it as a challenge.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Not everything in life has a simple answer and the sooner you accept that fact the sooner a solution to an emotional dilemma will appear. Try to think less in terms of black and white and right and wrong.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your authority will be challenged in some way today but it's not the end of the world so don't overreact. You know your own worth and what you are capable of, so stay calm and laugh at those who try to upset you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

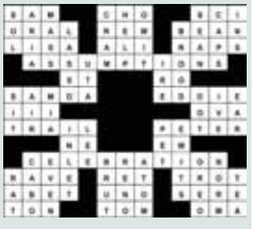
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Afternoon snooze
4. Bond, for one
7. Appeal
11. Actress Peeples
12. Jonny — Miller of Elementary
13. Name in jeans
14. Extensions
15. Laugh-In regular Johnson
17. Like fine wine
18. Compliance
21. My Name – Earl
22. Transgression
23. Woodwind instrument
25. Knock lightly
26. Part of Santa's greeting
28. Stimpy's pal
29. Collar inserts
31. — Aviv
32. "— Cid"
33. Sphere
34. Fr. Father
35. 'Peggy — Got Married"
36. Yours, Mine and Ours actress (init.)
37. Rival in sport
42. Indian dress
43. Edge
44. Curve
47. Face shape
48. Grazing ground
49. Taxi
50. Proofreader's mark
51. Cap
52. And so on....

Down
1. Opposite of SSW
2. Feel sick
3. Depth of feeling
4. Concrete piece
5. Salon offering
6. Abominable snowman
7. Homely
8. Building block toy
9. Equal
10. Assist
16. English homework, perhaps
19. Avail
20. Takes tiny drinks
23. Metallic rock
24. Dallas star Barbara — Geddes
25. Keyboard key
26. That girl
27. Spanish cheer
29. Lunchtime favourite
30. Shade providers
31. Patio
34. Paid athlete
35. Put on a happy face
37. Grotto
38. Articulated
39. Tip to one side
40. Notion
41. Kind of spirit
42. Lawn covering
45. The — Patrol
46. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (abbr.)

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

	1			5			7	
		2	8		3	9		
9								4
4		8				5		2
			5		6			
7		9				1		6
1								9
		7	2		5	3		
	4			9			1	

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	9	7	6	8	5	2	3
7	5	2	3	4	1	6	8	9
3	6	8	5	9	2	1	7	4
2	9	6	8	1	5	4	3	7
8	7	4	6	2	3	9	5	1
5	3	1	4	7	9	8	6	2
1	4	3	2	5	6	7	9	8
9	2	5	1	8	7	3	4	6
6	8	7	9	3	4	2	1	5

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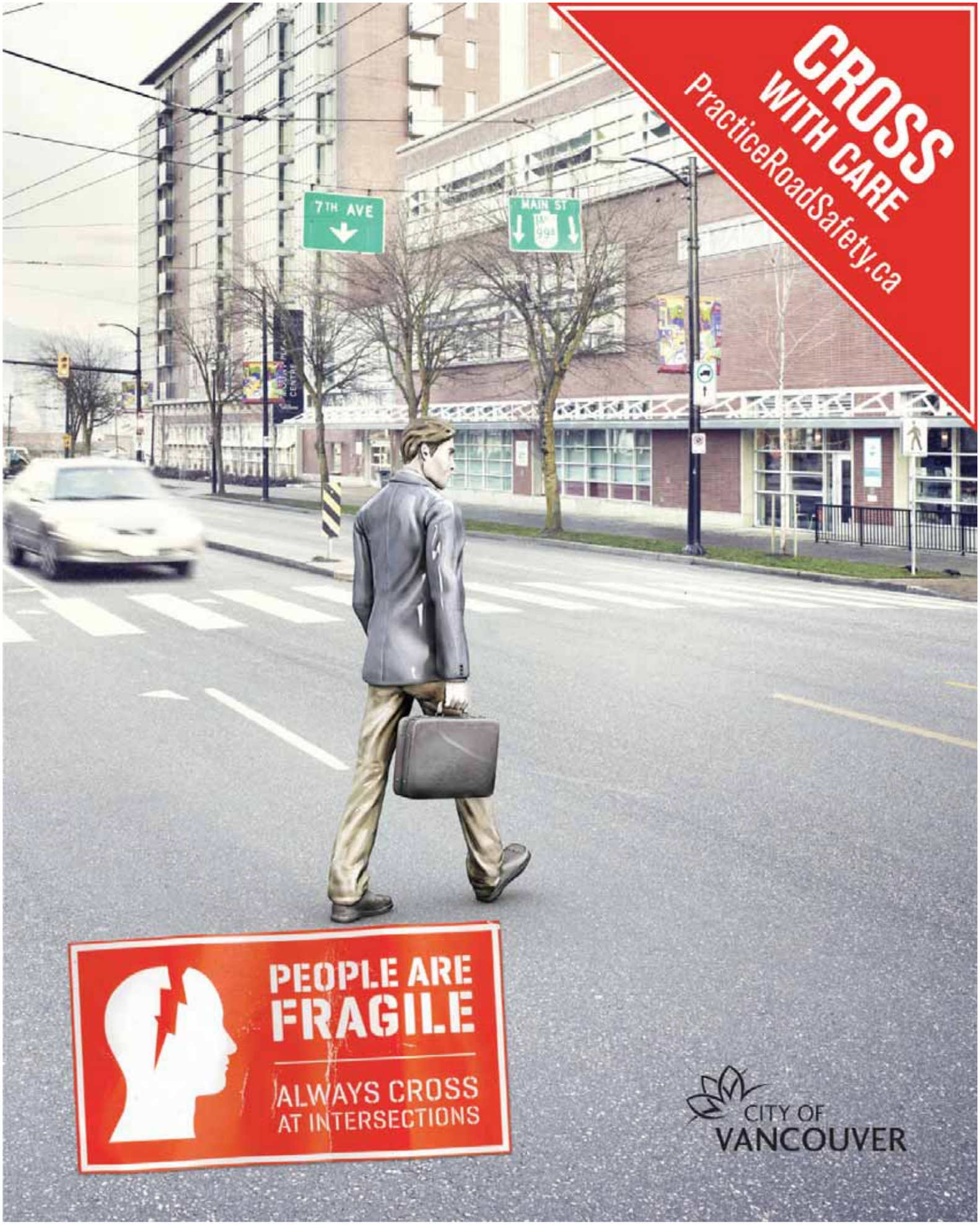
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